

## ABSTRACT

The present invention discloses a method and hard disk configuration for protecting data associated with a first image file in an appliance server after the first image file has been replaced with a second image file. In a first aspect, the method of the invention includes partitioning a hard disk of the appliance server into a plurality of partitions, wherein at least one of the plurality of partitions is a hidden partition and copying the data associated with the first image file to the hidden partition, wherein the data in the hidden partition is invisible to a network operating system during normal server operation. In another aspect, the hard disk of the invention includes a first partition for storing an image file, wherein the first partition stores one image file at one time, a second partition for storing data associated with the image file, wherein the second partition is visible to a network operating system in the first partition, a hidden partition, wherein the hidden partition is invisible to the network operating system in the first partition, means for replacing a first image file in the first partition with a second image file, and means for copying the data associated with the first image file from the second partition to the hidden partition when the first image file in the first partition is replaced with the second image file.